

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-40 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Applicants thank the Examiner and the Primary Examiner for the opportunity afforded their undersigned representative, Frank Tise, on March 26, 2008, to discuss this application. The Interview Summary of March 31, 2008 provided by the Examiner details that discussion.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-10, 17-23, 31-32 and 35 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 9-20 and 27-29 of copending Application No. 11/233,149. All of these claims are either canceled herewith or amended so as to encompass the subject matter of claims 24-30 as they stood at the time of the Office Action. Thus, claim 17 now contains all of the limitations of claim 24 as it stood at the time of the Office Action. Since those claims were not provisionally rejected, Applicants submit that the provisional rejection is rendered moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 1-23 and 31-40 are rejected, and all of these claims are either canceled herewith or amended to fall within the scope of claims 24-30 as they stood at the time of the Office Action. Since the Examiner has indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in Independent format, Applicants submit that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to file the canceled claims in a continuing application.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims, and invite the examiner to contact their undersigned representative, Frank Tise, if it appears that this may expedite examination.

Respectfully submitted,



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CAR/FPT/

Dated: April 28, 2008

The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.